

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. In the present Amendment, Claim 12 is canceled and Claims 1, 13 and 17-19 are amended for the reasons discussed below, thereby leaving Claims 2-11, 14-16 and 20 unchanged. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-11 and the Examiner's indication that Claims 13-20 include allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove a minor typographical error.

Interview

Applicant's attorney appreciates the Examiner's time and consideration during the telephone interview on December 15, 2005. During the interview, Applicant's attorney, Stephen A. Gigot (Registration No. 51,232), and the Examiner discussed the rejection and objections in the Present Office action, as explained in greater detail below.

Information Disclosure Statement

In the Present Office action, the Examiner pointed out that the listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. Before issuance of the present application as a patent, Applicant will file a proper information disclosure, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and MPEP § 609.04(a).

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,502,774 ("Johansson et al."). To expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled Claim 12 rendering this rejection moot. Applicant reserves the right to re-present the subject matter of the rejected Claim and to address the Examiner's rejections in a continuation or divisional patent application.

Allowable Subject Matter

According to the Examiner, "Claims 13-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Applicant

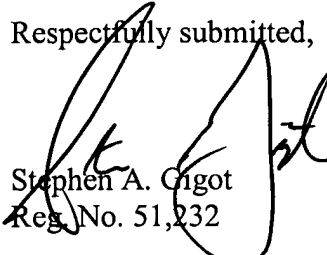
respectfully notes that the reference to 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph appears to have been made in error. Rather, Applicants assume the Examiner was referring to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) mentioned above. Accordingly, Claim 13 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 14-20 depend from Claim 13, and are therefore allowable. Claims 17-19 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 13, and are therefore also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 13-20 in addition to the previous allowance of Claims 1-11.

During normal business hours, the undersigned is available at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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